



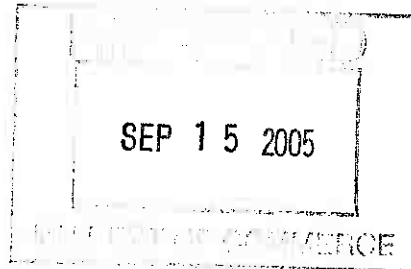
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September 14, 2005

WO #48241

Dr. Burl W. Haar  
Executive Secretary  
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission  
121 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 350  
St. Paul, MN 55101



SUBJECT: Chanhassen Substation and 115 kV Transmission Line Project

Dear Dr. Haar:

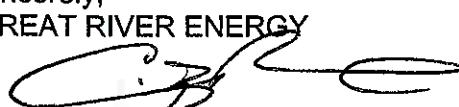
In accordance with the Power Plant Siting Act, this letter serves as the required notice to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) that Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative (MVEC) has elected to seek local approval for the construction of a new 115 kV substation in Chanhassen, Minnesota.

The proposed substation would be located within the city limits of Chanhassen in Carver County. MVEC will own the substation and GRE will own the one-span tap into the substation. The new facility will meet the growing electrical demand and improve the service and reliability of electric facilities in the area. A fact sheet that provides more detail on the project is enclosed.

Great River Energy (wholesale power supplier to MVEC) will assist MVEC and the City of Chanhassen with the permitting process. MVEC submitted a Conditional Use Permit application to the City of Chanhassen on September 2, 2005. The City of Chanhassen has been informed that they have 60 days to refer the permitting process to the Commission.

Questions regarding this project should be directed to Dennis Wolf, MVEC VP Special Projects at 952-492-8260, Sharmeen Al-Jaff, Senior Planner at the City of Chanhassen at 952-227-1100, or me at 763-241-2367. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,  
GREAT RIVER ENERGY

  
Craig Poorker  
Field Representative

Enclosure

CC: ✓ General List of Interested Persons – w/encl.  
Denny Wolf, MVEC – w/encl.  
Deborah Pile, Department of Commerce – w/encl.


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# Chanhassen 115 kV Substation/Transmission Tap



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## Project Goal and Need

Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative (MVEC) provides electric energy to a large portion of Chanhassen and the surrounding areas, as designated by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission. The area has experienced rapid growth in recent years, and completion of the State Highway 312 project is anticipated to significantly drive more new growth until land use is saturated.

## The Substation

A technical analysis of the transmission system identified the need for a new electrical distribution substation site within the focused area. This analysis considered the presence of existing distribution feeders and transmission lines as well as existing and future load projections. A location within an underutilized industrial area adjacent to the MA Gedney Plant on Stoughton Avenue (Section 3, T115N, R23W), situated directly under existing transmission lines, was found to be most conducive to the current and future electrical needs of the area. The substation proposed is a low profile, modular facility that would be proposed with concrete tip-up type walls on three of the four sides. The new proposed installation will provide considerably more system growth potential, improve MVEC system reliability, and provide some backup capabilities to both the Bluff Creek and Chaska substations under emergency conditions.

## Transmission

Existing transmission lines cross the area near the proposed substation location and include voltages of 69 kV, 115 kV and 230 kV. MVEC would utilize the 115 kV transmission line (owned by Xcel Energy) in partnership with Great River Energy (GRE), who would tap the transmission line (one span) and bring it into the substation. Minimal alterations to the existing transmission system would be required.

## Permitting and Scheduling

MVEC and GRE are applying for necessary permits from the City of Chanhassen and will assist in the preparation of the required environmental assessment. The project will operate at the nominal voltage of 115 kV and is regulated under the Power Plant Siting Act. A provision of this law allows the utility to seek local approval. Because this is a local load serving project, GRE and MVEC have elected to seek local approval.

## Contacts

Questions or concerns should be directed to one of the following:

Ron Jabs  
Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative  
125 Minnesota Valley electric Drive  
Jordan, MN 55352  
952-492-8244

Craig Poorker  
Great River Energy  
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# PROJECT MAP

